

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, October 28, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Richard Johnson and Selectman Mike Carrier. Selectmen William Hodgman was excused. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Sean Leary, Chief Evans, Alex Duso, another resident, and Bob Truesdell (at 6:12 p.m.)

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order.

\*\*\*

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the manifests of October 28, 2024 and public and non-public minutes of October 21, 2024, and workshop minutes of October 23, 2024, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

*New Business:*

A water abatement was presented for Beverly Bernier in the amount of \$51.51 re: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter at 532 Plain Road (right of way re: well). Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the abatement for Bernier, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A Cemetery Deed for Marle and Janice Stevens Lot 23 Sec. I (3 graves) at Pine Grove Cemetery was presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve and sign the Cemetery Deed, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

The Town Hall Facility Request for the Hinsdale Fireman Association for Children's Christmas Party on December 2, 2024 was submitted. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the Town Hall Facility Request, second by Johnson. T.A. Lynch reminded the Board that this is a Monday night and asked whether they would like to either skip meeting that week or meet on Tuesday that week. They chose Tuesday. Motion passes unanimously.

The next item was a Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions for 10282024A (Veterans). Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve the Veteran's Exemption 10282024A, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

The third quarter 2024 Water Commitment in the amount of \$124,913.19 and Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$105,228.51 were presented. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Water and Sewer Commitments, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, the MS-1 was submitted for signatures. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the MS-1, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

\*\*\*

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Lynch reported that she applied for and received Holt Grant funds for new tables and chairs for the Community Room and also for the auditorium. Chairs for the auditorium will be padded folding chairs.

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, October 28, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

She is waiting for the MS-535 from the Auditor and then the tax rate should be able to be set.

The first meeting was held with Jon Ashley of Dubois & King working on a contract for the Planning Grant (for WWTP Feasibility Study).

She believes we have been approved for extension for DEMO grant, soon to be bid, for Canal Street.

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that upgrades on heating system of approximately \$2000 were done by Steve Gasset. An Energy Audit will be performed in November. This will give an opportunity to apply for more grants working towards energy efficiency.

Budgets should be ready for Committee by the 31<sup>st</sup> .

Some employees will be out of town on the 30<sup>th</sup> and Ann will cover the front desk.

Josh met with Steve Fortier and HEDC (Hinsdale Economic Development Committee) members and a woman from EDA (a government agency). She toured Winchester, Hinsdale and Chesterfield.

She and Josh met with a contractor and members of HEDC pertaining to a remodel of an apartment building and of various properties.

T.A. Lynch mentioned holding a Department Head Meeting today. She asked for Julie, who could be available at the November 5<sup>th</sup> election from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Selectmen Carrier and Diorio are available. Selectman Johnson will let her know, Selectman Rideout is unavailable and Selectman Hodgman will need to be contacted.

T.A. Lynch mentioned there are two interviews scheduled this week for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Operator position.

T.A. Lynch was asked to ask a question: If you had a commitment from a developer, would the Board consider taking over the bridges from the State of NH? Answers followed: Selectman Johnson – no; Selectman Rideout – no; Selectman Carrier – no; and Selectman Diorio – no.

\*\*\*

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 28, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

\*\*\*

6:16 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the **Public Hearing** to clarify the circumstances surrounding the Special Town Meeting held in Hinsdale on September 15, 2024. He turned this over to Selectman Johnson.

Selectman Johnson gave his feelings on the situation and then read from a prepared statement as follows:

I wanted to take a few minutes to explain to everyone how the special town meeting came to be and what the Selectboard's role was in it.

As many of you are aware, the Fire Department has had a building committee in place for some years now, which has been tasked with finding a solution to their current situation. The building committee came to the Select board looking for guidance on how they could move forward in purchasing a building they felt would fit their needs. The Select board determined that there were sufficient funds available between the building fund and others and that they had the authority to expend those funds for a purchase.

The Select board came to the decision that they wanted the taxpayers to decide whether to purchase the property or not.

The Select board informed the building committee that they would go to Superior court and request a special town meeting with a single article being should the town purchase the property. It was explained to the building committee that this would be their meeting to make their case to the taxpayers on making the purchase. The Select board did tell the committee that they needed to be prepared to answer question from the public not only on the purchase but to the best of their knowledge and ability how they saw the total project unfolding.

At the town meeting the moderator turned the meeting over to the building committee, which in turn introduced their engineer to make his presentation of their plans and answer questions afterwards.

The questions from the public soon became focused on how the building committee saw the full project progressing. There were no answers given to any of the numerous questions from the public about the project as a whole.

At that point I could see that the public was frustrated with the lack of answers, and it was clear that the fire department would not be giving any.

I must say that I was torn between trying to answer questions and leaving it to the fire department.

I made the decision not to speak up and I am before you today to say that that was the wrong decision for me to have made.

The fact that the meeting was the fire departments to run did not absolve me of my duty to do my best to answer questions. On that day I failed to get the voters the information that they were requesting.

Having had time to reflect on the events of that day, I offer my humblest apology to the people who elected me to be their representative. I hope that you will accept my apology, and I promise you that I will never make that mistake again.

Sincerely,  
Richard S Johnson Jr

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, October 28, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

Selectman Johnson then gave his reasons for the statement and apology to include feeling it was a bad meeting and that he should make a statement for the record.

Chair Diorio asked if there were questions from the public.

Sean Leary responded, noting that he was not speaking for the Budget Committee. He explained a different take on the meeting. He felt the Board had to bring the matter before the public in following the law. He felt the Fire Department did what they were to do and had their architect there to present information. He feels the controversy was over the deposit which was asked about. Initially there was no deposit expected. They later found a deposit was needed. Better communication may have avoided the negativity and animosity between committees.

Selectman Rideout voiced that disrespectful comments had been made. Discussion followed on that topic. Discussion included poor communication, and the need for the committees to come together and move forward. Sean feels that the committees' communication should have been Chair to Chair or ex officio member to Chair.

Chair Diorio added his view on the communication and communication among ranks. Selectman Carrier agreed there has been poor communication and the need to make amends and move on.

*6:39 p.m. Public Hearing closed.*

\*\*\*

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, October 28, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

Selectman Johnson asked about the River Road Status. T.A. Lynch responded that that subject went dark again. Discussion followed with Bob Truesdell. Following a question on Shaheen's Office assisting, T.A. Lynch responded that Shaheen's intentions were good but sent us in another direction. She will follow up with another letter.

\*\*\*

Chief Evans presented the Board with a Hinsdale Police Department – Longevity Bonus Proposal.

She first started with discussing her budget following last week's budget workshop. She reduced Special Details to \$1.00 and reduced the SRO position to \$50,521.00 as there will be revenue from the school. The result reduced \$120,520.00 without cutting positions. If proposals remain, she is only up \$500. She spoke of the Longevity Bonus Proposal and appreciation to the scale increasing. She mentioned that many are getting creative in order to retain people resulting in why she came up with this. This would replace the sign-on bonus which wasn't effective. Questions and discussion followed. She was acknowledged for her efforts.

\*\*\*

Sean Leary presented information to the Board on Development Tax Incentives RSA 79-E & RSA 72:81. He mentioned that this information being presented is to see if the Board is interested in placing this on the warrant for the 2025 Town Meeting. 79-E is for revitalization to downtown; a tax incentive for someone to make improvements (rehab) a building with tax assessments being delayed. A spot is chosen in town, with proposal being downtown business district and surrounding residential areas. If Adopted, the owner applies for tax incentive (to delay the increase of their property tax for up to five years starting at the completion of the rehabilitation), and Select Board accepts or denies. 72:81 needs to be voted in. This is incentive to businesses. The recipient could get exemption of 50% of the increase in assessment value on municipal and local school taxes (but excludes state and county) and can be done for up to 10 years. They're suggesting use in Commercial/Industrial District. This would need to be revisited/renewed every 5 years. Discussion included that this is a way for communities to attract business.

*Board Comments:*

Selectman Carrier extended kudos to Hinsdale Beautification Committee for a very well-attended *Trunk or Treat* event. There were around 550 who attended.

It was announced that the Board would be going into a non-public meeting. Members of the public left. 7:05 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)-personnel, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

7:27 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:27 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to adjourn, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,  
Secretary